

HA-1592

Ensor Farm

Rocks, Id.

Capsule-Summary

The focal point of this farming site is an early 19th century residence that has at least two other periods of construction. There are numerous outbuildings here too, including two barns, a shop, a drive-through crib, and a 20th century icehouse.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Ensor Farm (temporary name)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

east of Coen Road, west of MD. Rte 24

CITY, TOWN

Streett

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Thomas P. Ensor and wife

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 188 RD 1 Coen Road

CITY, TOWN

Streett

VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland zip code 21154

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 1000

Folio #: 845

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-1592

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This working farm is located east of MD Rte 24 in the vicinity of Rocks, Md. It is also south of HA-1596 (J. Streett Farm) The farm is now operated by the Ensor family, who came from Baltimore County. The complex consists of a residence, and a number of outbuildings, including a small shop, an ice house, cribs, and barns. Like the house, the outbuildings have characteristics of buildings constructed over a long period of time and exhibit additions and alterations.

On the day that the initial visit was made to this site, a hog killing was in progress. Two hogs were butchered and the surveyors were privy to an occurrence that was once a common event on farms everywhere. Today, most people take their animals to a custom butcher rather than do it at home.

Residence-- This is a two story gable end (roof runs east-west) structure that faces south and has a side hall plan. Fenestration is irregular. The main block is three bays wide by two bays deep. There is a one story shed roof porch on the south elevation. The present roof covering and exterior siding are of modern materials, and the foundation is of rubblestone. An examination of the basement and adjacent crawl space revealed puncheons. The framing system for this house is probably post and beam, but a particularly thick wall in the east end, where the house may have once been only 1 1/2 half stories high suggests a possibility of some log construction. The house has at least two periods of 19th cent. construction, but alterations made it difficult to determine the complete evolution. The interior plan is a side hall with double parlors.

Outbuildings --only the oldest are mentioned here in this brief report.

Shop-- this small post and beam structure is northwest of the house. Its upper loft revealed light framing with circular sawn materials and cut nails. The roof rafters are mitred at the ridge.

Ice house-- This has an octagonal roof and is of course located primarily below ground. The concrete walls suggest an early 20th century construction date.

Drive through and crib-- This is three bays wide, with a later added section. It has hewn posts and beams and sawn braces. A board and batten door with wrought clinched nails and spade end hinges was observed.

Barn--The oldest barn was examined. This is a post 1890's bank barn with a circular sawn post and beam frame. The south wall plates in this barn are scarfed, but one piece measured an entire 40' in length. The barn has tongue and groove vertical siding 7" wide cut to imitate 3 1/2" planks, fastened with cut nails. Rafters are circular sawn 2" x 6" mitred at the ridge (no ridgepole) on 2' centers. The rafters are square notched to fit over the plate. Also on the farm are a large concrete block dairy barn, a frame hayhouse, and smaller modern buildings.

NOTE--only one visit was made to this site 11 December 1980 before funding for survey work was cut in Harford County. This site deserves more detailed documentation...these observations are

admittedly sketchy.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ensor farm is an evolutionary farm complex that can teach us much about buildings and the farming process. It is a site that deserves further research and documentation.

The main house on this farm is a vernacular expression of formal tastes; this was no rude dwelling but the home of a gentleman farmer. Archival research will probably associate this land with the Streett family who played such a large role in farming this area of Harford County in the 18th and 19th centuries.

A more thorough investigation of the outbuildings and barns at this site will no doubt document changes in the scale and methods of farming over the last one hundred years. It is not surprising to find two and three periods of barns on Harford County farms of this size. Just as important as the historical fabric is the fact that this farm appears to be economically healthy, and thus is likely to carry on with this traditional use of the land and buildings.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

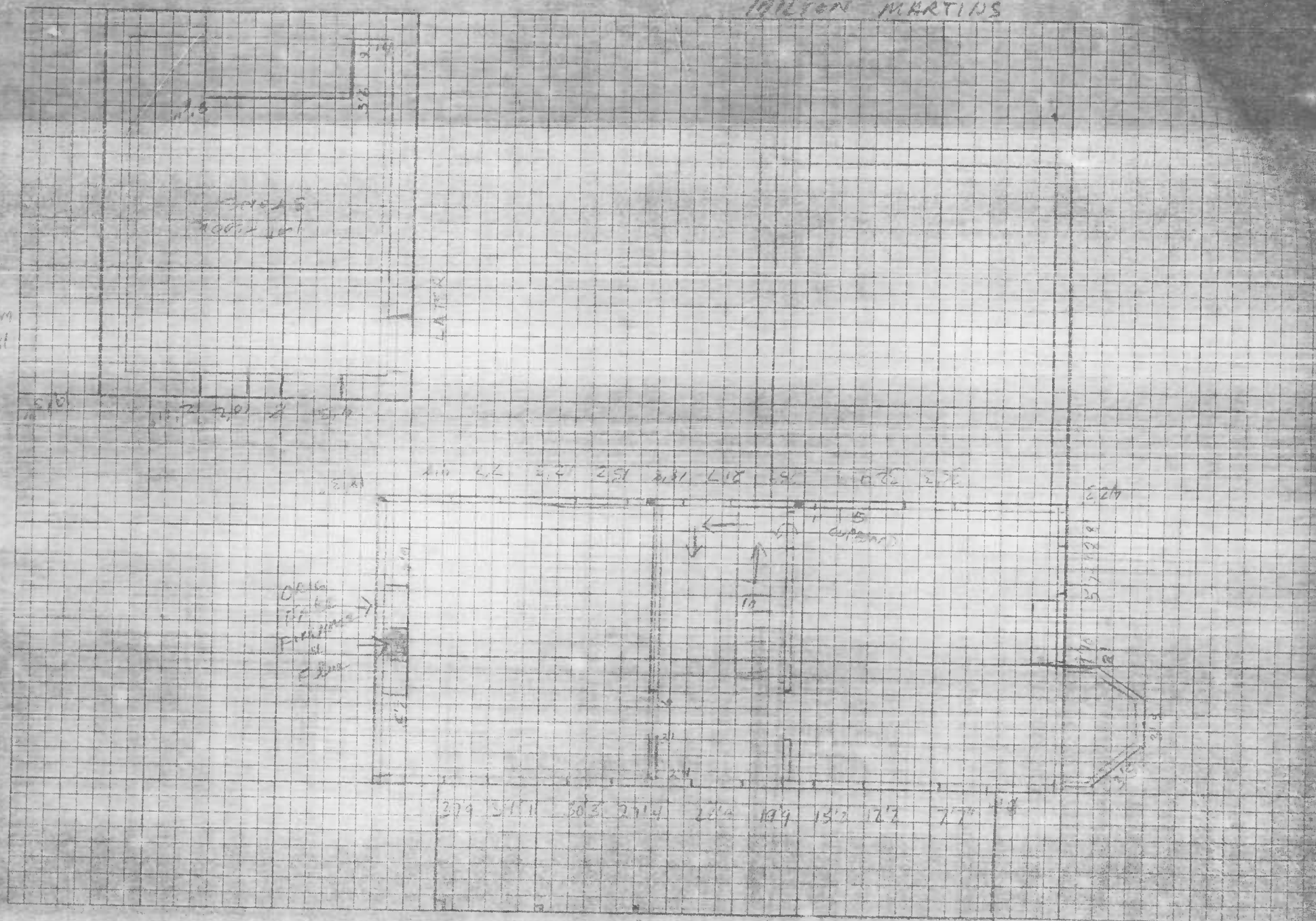
NAME / TITLE	
Phillip Lord	Historic Sites Surveyor , Wayne Nield Hist. Sites Surveyor
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning	June 1981
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
45 South Main Street	838-6000 X 235
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Bel Air	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

House
MILTON MARTINS



HA-1592



Ensor Farm

HA-1592

Rocks, Md.

Phillip Lord 12/80

House-south elevation



Ensor Farm HA-1592

Rocks, Md.

Phillip Lord 12/80

Icehouse-northwest



Ensor Farm

HA-1592

Rocks, Md.

Phillip Lord 12/80

Dressing Hog



Ensor Farm

HA-1592

Rocks, Md.

Phillip Lord 12/80

Barn-southwest